

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 are pending, with Claims 1 and 8 being independent. Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, for example, in Figure 15 and the accompanying description in the specification, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Requested Action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objection and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that dependent Claim 11 contains allowable subject matter. In response, the features recited therein have been added to independent Claims 1 and 8 and Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,072,526 (Hashimoto). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,862,039 (Shimizu). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in

view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0090750 (Takahashi). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Takahashi, and U.S. Patent No. 7,133,070 (Wheeler).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include the features of allowable Claim 11, thereby rendering these claims allowable, and Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice.

The dependent claims are patentable, due to their dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants submit that this Amendment After Final Rejection is enterable because it merely adds a feature of an allowable dependent claim to the independent claims, thereby placing the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not presented earlier, because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Gary M. Jacobs/

Gary M. Jacobs
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,861

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
GMJ/klm

FCBS_WS 3884267v1